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MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

CNEDD Broadband Update from Amy Tharp

Nebraska ranks in the top 10 states with fiber availability with 68.50% of citizens having access, according to a new report from Reviews.org, based on data from the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map. The report also notes that 46% of American homes have access to fiber, compared to 82% that have access to cable internet.

We've found that Brown, Cherry, and Custer counties are the areas in our district with the most rural residents that are considered unserved or underserved without adequate access to affordable high-speed internet. This means instead of being able to renew their driver's licenses online, for example, many of these county's residents must drive at least 30 miles, if not further, to the closest Department of Motor Vehicle's location. They also lack internet speed for telemedicine, banking, school homework, and tax filing.

March 11th marks the next phase in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment, known as NBEAD in Nebraska. **The current phase is when Organizational Applications are being submitted to the Nebraska Broadband office until the deadline of April 11, 2025.** These applications can be submitted by internet service providers, businesses, cooperatives, non-profit organizations, public or or private companies or utilities, local governments, partnerships, or limited liability companies that want to apply for NBEAD funding.

It's also a great time for those businesses, individuals, and local governments to compose letters of support or endorsement for NBEAD funding in their areas. Whether it's a large seed corn dealer, farmer, manufacturer, or large cattle feeding operation, we'd love to have their support during this phase.

If you're interested in contributing during this phase, email me at amy.tharp@cnedd.org or call (402) 394-1026.

Stay tuned for more broadband updates from Amy coming soon!



Amy Tharp, Community Development Specialist

“Spring is nature’s way of saying, “Let’s party!” — Robin Williams